

**SLAYER ACADEMY**

"The New Kid"

by  
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Excerpt from "Bad Girls"  
by Douglas Petrie

and from "Graduation Day, Part One"  
by Joss Whedon

TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. CAMPUS - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

1

BARBARA stands just before the stage, overlooking the assembled girls of the Academy - just over fifty of them.

SKYE and ALITA are in the front row, along with HEIDI, ERIKA, ANNA and DEBBIE. The girls are talking amongst themselves, obviously agitated, as Barbara stares out across them.

BARBARA  
(raises voice)  
Alright, girls, I need you all to  
listen to me now.

The chatter dies down. Barbara has the room's attention.

BARBARA (cont'd)  
As I said a moment ago, we'll be  
dividing you into teams and  
assigning you key positions to  
defend from the attackers. Ellen is  
contacting the Initiative to  
request reinforcements, so all we  
have to do is keep the demons at  
our gates out for long enough for  
help to arrive.

HEIDI  
You seem confident.

BARBARA  
I have to be.

She lets that comment hang, as Erika nudges Heidi and scowls.

BARBARA (cont'd)  
Erika, Anna, Debbie, I want each of  
you three to take five Slayers each  
and set yourselves up in the  
reception - you're our first line  
of defence.

HEIDI  
What about me?

BARBARA  
With Sofia and Frankie out of  
action, Heidi, I want you to team  
up with Skye and Alita.

SKYE  
What? No way! Why are we getting  
saddled with her?

(CONTINUED)

HEIDI

Hey, I'm not exactly tap dancing over here, you know!

BARBARA

Put simply, Heidi, you're one of our best Slayers and I need you more mobile. You three will be on call to respond to any breaches in our defences.

DEBBIE

Um, might be a stupid question, but what defences do we have?

BARBARA

This entire campus was built in the sixteenth century. There's enough solid rock here to withstand a nuclear strike!

DEBBIE

Oh.

BARBARA

The parts the rest of you will need to guard the most are the more open areas like the canteen, the reception area, and...

She trails off - ELLEN is waiting at the hall's side entrance. Barbara reads her expression - she isn't bringing good news.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Excuse me.

She heads over, and the girls erupt into fresh chatter.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Well?

ELLEN

(shakes head)

They're not coming.

BARBARA

(beat)

Did they say why?

ELLEN

'Too busy,' apparently.

BARBARA

(darkly)

We really needed their help.

ELLEN

Hey, preaching to the converted here. What are you gonna tell the girls?

Barbara looks back across the hall, then strides purposefully back towards the front of the stage. The girls quieten down.

BARBARA

That's all the briefing you're going to get. Ellen, myself and the rest of the faculty will be on hand to supervise you all, but for now I want everybody to split into their teams. Erika, your group is to take five Slayers each and meet me in reception. Skye, Alita, Heidi, wait in the canteen. The rest of you, stay here and gather into groups of three, we'll organise you all in a few moments.

Barbara and Ellen exit as the girls stand and start shuffling around - they're not sure if they're excited or terrified at the prospect of the impending attack!

Barbara and Ellen head back towards her office.

ELLEN

Barb, I need a favour.

BARBARA

Now's not an ideal time, but...

ELLEN

Let me leave the campus. See if I can get some more help. There's a base near here, if I show up in person then maybe I'll have more luck persuading some reinforcements to come save our asses.

BARBARA

How do you plan on getting out?

ELLEN

Demons are at the front gates. Not the back. There's ways out of here.

BARBARA

(nods)

Alright. But whatever happens, I want you back here, reinforcements or not.

ELLEN

Wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

(beat)

So what are our chances?

BARBARA

I'd rather not start thinking in terms of acceptable losses just yet, Ellen.

ELLEN

Me either. Just being realistic.

BARBARA

Honestly?

(beat)

I think we're in for a hell of a fight.

Barbara's dark expression says it all as we cut to:

The door opens and TYSON hurries back in. He looks down at SOFIA, still asleep in her bed but looking like she's stuck in a painful nightmare - her face is scrunched up and she's sweating heavily.

AIDEN is at her side, trying to keep her cool by mopping her brow with a damp towel, but his concern is clear to see.

AIDEN

Tyson! Where the hell have you been?

TYSON

Very long story. Helping, I think. How is she?

AIDEN

No change. No new injuries, but I still can't wake her up. We need a new plan, and fast.

TYSON

I'd say stay here. If there's any trouble, hide.

AIDEN

Not quite the proactive strategy I was hoping for...

TYSON

Really? It's exactly the kind of plan I was hoping for.

Aiden stands, pushing the towel into Tyson's hands, heading for the door.

TYSON (cont'd)  
Where are you going?

AIDEN  
I'm going to try and get hold of  
Greg again. Just keep an eye on  
Sofia until I get back.

Aiden exits, and as Tyson crouches down by Sofia, we cut to:

A growing horde of DEMONS is attacking the gates, CLANGING their weapons against it and trying to batter the tall iron gates down with brute force.

The demons are all shapes and sizes - some hairy, some scaly, some big, some small, but every single one of them has murder in their eyes as they relentlessly pound the gates.

Further back, watching them from the safety of two long, black limousines - and offering a view of the razor-wire topped walls circling the Academy - are the six DEMON CLAN LEADERS, along with KIRA BROGAN and her team - HAMISH, DELANEY, DANA and RACHEL.

KIRA  
How much longer?

Clan Leader #1, a grey-skinned demon called PEGRI, turns to her, chomping down on a fat cigar.

PEGRI  
Not long. They've been at this for  
a while now, so any second those  
gates are going to-

CRASH! There's a CHEER from the demons as the gates finally fall to the ground, and in an instant the demons swarm through the gap in the walls, down towards the campus.

Pegri turns and grins at Kira, who returns the sinister smile as we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF TEASER**

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 INT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION - DAY

5

Debbie, Erika and Anna stand in the reception, a crowd of fifteen more nervous-looking Slayers behind them. They're all armed - swords, axes or more specialised weapons.

The girls can see through the glass entrance all the way up the drive - and have a commanding view of the advancing horde of demons as a result.

DEBBIE

Oh, God...

ANNA

Relax. We'll be fine.

DEBBIE

'Fine'? Show me any part of this situation that spells 'fine'!

ERIKA

Your fear will hinder your ability to fight, Debbie. You must find a way to control it.

DEBBIE

It's doing a pretty bloody good job of controlling me at the moment!

One of the other Slayers, a meek-looking blonde called TRACY, steps forward and taps Anna on the shoulder.

ANNA

What is it?

TRACY

Uh, you know, we were just wondering... are we all gonna die?

Debbie and Anna exchange a look, before:

ERIKA

Be prepared! They are almost here!

The ROARS of the charging demons are growing in volume as they draw closer - the girls can see the army dividing into packs that all run for a different part of the Academy - but a large group are headed straight for the main doors!

ANNA

Alright, you and you, make sure every door in and out of this area is locked and secured!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANNA (cont'd)  
 (to Debbie)  
 We have to try and contain them  
 here for as long as we can.

DEBBIE  
 (gulps)  
 Okay...

The glass front doors SMASH as a hail of projectiles hit them - rocks, arrows, spears - and the girls hustle back, away from the spray of broken glass.

ANNA  
 (yells)  
 Hit 'em!

Anna leads the charge as a dozen burly WARRIOR DEMONS spill into the reception. Her sword streaks through the air, burying itself in the first demon's skull.

Debbie YELPS in alarm as she faces two demons at once, fighting defensively and getting forced backwards.

Erika is a blur of action, darting left and right and SLAMMING her staff into any demon in range.

All around them, the other Slayers get stuck into the fight - some faring better than others, as one girl SCREAMS as two demons pounce on her, shoving her to the floor and making short work of her.

DEBBIE  
 Help! Erika!

Debbie is pinned against a wall now, ducking and dodging spear attacks by the skin of her teeth - but Erika swoops in, bowling both demons over and KICKING one out of the way.

ERIKA  
 Debbie, you must fight back! We  
 will not win by letting them-

Erika GRUNTS as a demon SLICES its sword across her back, and as she stumbles forward into Debbie's arms, we cut to:

Overlooking the quad below, teams of Slayers can be seen dashing around below as Skye, Alita and Heidi march purposefully onwards.

SKYE  
 So... anybody know any good jokes?

ALITA  
 There will be times for jokes  
 later.



SKYE

Not picking up a great deal of  
faith in your voice there, Allie.

ALITA

Do not worry, Skye.

SKYE

Worried? Who's worried? I'm  
hovering around 'psyched' at the  
moment!

The sounds of BREAKING GLASS and FIGHTING echo down towards  
them from other corridors.

SKYE (cont'd)

Alright, this is it. Any questions?

HEIDI

Yeah - do I have to stay with you  
people?

SKYE

(beat)

Let's go!

As another group of demons spill out into the corridor from a  
corner up ahead, the girls CHARGE into the fight, and we cut  
away to:

Stepping over the twisted and battered gates are Delaney and  
the other rogue Slayers, with Kira and Hamish hanging back  
with the clan leaders.

KIRA

You understand what I need?

HAMISH

Loud and clear, don't worry.

DELANEY

Uh, question. So... we just go in  
and pick a fight? Is that our  
master plan?

KIRA

Just do what I asked, Delaney.

DELANEY

I'm not going to kill anyone.

KIRA

Even if you have to? Even if it's  
you or them?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIRA (cont'd)

(smirks)

Don't trouble yourself over small moralistic details. You know exactly what I need you to do. I have Dana to take care of anybody I need killed.

DANA

(agitated)

Shouldn't happen! Shouldn't happen to them... Like them, but not! Different! Balance all wrong...

KIRA

(beat)

So are you going to get in there and do as I tell you, or do I have to discipline you out here in the open air?

Delaney doesn't have an answer, returning Kira's smirk with a cold stare until Rachel lays a hand on her arm.

RACHEL

C'mon. Let's go.

With a last dark look back at Kira, Delaney and the others jog down towards the campus, with the melee of demons fighting to get inside visible as we cut to:

CATHERINE is manning the library with a small group of Slayers, busily leafing through six thick magic books at once as two of the tall windows SMASH.

CATHERINE

Alright, everybody, get back! Let them start to come in and then hit them, it'll keep the windows blocked!

The nervous Slayers clutch their weapons tightly as the first clawed hands of the attacking demons reach in through the frames - and in moments, leering faces are peering through at the girls.

CATHERINE (cont'd)

*Moribund artis ex infernum!*

A FIREBALL shoots from Catherine's outstretched hands, BLASTING two demons away with a HOWL and setting a chunk of the wall on fire!

CATHERINE (cont'd)

(yells)

Now!

The Slayers charge forward, hacking away at the invading demons with everything they've got.

Hanging back, Catherine keeps an eye on her soldiers - until she hears another window SMASH up in the next level. She looks up - and hears the grunts of more demons spilling into the library.

She grits her teeth, then reaches down towards the table - and picks up a SWORD, as we cut to:

GREG sits on a small packing crate, his head in his hands. A small slip of paper flutters away from his fingers as ETHAN RAYNE steps into frame.

ETHAN

I'm truly sorry you had to find out like this, old boy.

Greg doesn't answer - TEARS are rolling down his cheeks. Ethan starts to reach out a comforting hand, then catches himself and shoves his hand back in his pocket.

ETHAN (cont'd)

Your father was a good man. One of the best of us, in fact. He deserved better than what happened to him.

GREG

(quietly)

Why... why didn't he ever tell me?

ETHAN

What's that?

Greg looks up, wiping his eyes.

GREG

I met him... dozens of times, I met him, I looked him right in the eyes, and he never... he never once said...

ETHAN

Maybe he thought you were better off not knowing?

(beat)

Perhaps he didn't know either?

Greg looks away, obviously trying to process a huge shock, when the tense silence is broken by his mobile phone RINGING.

ETHAN (cont'd)  
Aren't you going to answer that?

Greg looks up at Ethan, then finally digs out his phone and takes the call.

GREG  
(into phone)  
Hello?

KIRA  
(filtered; through phone)  
Hello, Gregory.

GREG  
(stands; serious)  
Who is this?

KIRA  
This is Kira Brogan.

She lets that comment hang for a beat, before:

KIRA (cont'd)  
I just thought you might like to  
know where I am at the moment.

We don't hear what she says next, but Greg turns white as a sheet, and off his horrified look, we cut to:

10 INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - NEXT

10

Skye's group SLAM into the pack of demons, scattering them as the girls show why they're the lead Slayers on campus - Skye floors one with a CRUNCH as she sinks her fist into its gut, while Alita SPIN KICKS another to the ground.

Drawing their weapons, the girls make short work of the others - CHOPPING and SLICING, spraying the walls and themselves with thick demon blood as they fight back-to-back.

HEIDI  
Watch out!

Heidi SHOVES them both to one side - just missing a demon that SPITS a mouthful of a thick, yellow substance at them - which starts to BURN straight through the wall!

HEIDI (cont'd)  
Pallas demon! It's spit's ninety  
per cent concentrated acid!

Heidi KICKS an attacking demon in the head as Skye and Alita get back to work - but then Skye spots something.

(CONTINUED)

Delaney and the others have entered the corridor from the far end, skidding to a halt as they see the other Slayers.

DELANEY

Oh, man...

Alita STABS the last demon by shoving its own sword back into its chest, then spots the rogue Slayers at last.

SKYE

Get after them!

Skye, Alita and Heidi charge off, and as they approach the rogue Slayers, all three break off and take a different corridor.

SKYE (cont'd)

Split up! Stay with them!

ALITA

Understood!

The three girls split up, and we cut to:

THWOCK! We're thrown straight into the action as BUFFY fights two vamps at once, while SOFIA struggles to notch an arrow on a cumbersome-looking crossbow. The girls are in a dingy-looking downtown alley.

SOFIA

Bugger it!

She drops the bow and simply JAMS the arrow into the chest of the nearest vampire. DUST. Buffy dusts hers as well.

SOFIA (cont'd)

I think we've got more coming...

The two girls move quickly down the alley, turning a corner with glances over their shoulders.

A stray vamp LUNGES from the corner! Sofia grabs and spins him, Buffy stakes him. Dusted.

BUFFY

We may never even make it to the warehouse.

SOFIA

If they keep coming one at a time, we've got a shot.

BUFFY

Keep moving.

They walk down the alley - and a HAND reaches out and grasps Buffy's shoulder! She GRABS her assailant and THROWS him against the wall by Sofia.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
That was too easy...

She stops. Eyes wide.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Sofia, WAIT!

Too late. Sofia STAKES the guy, right in the chest. She steps aside. Light from a street lamp illuminates the assailant's face. It's NOT A VAMPIRE.

It's the DEPUTY MAYOR.

Bleeding. He looks in terror at the girls. Blood runs over his hand, out the corner of his mouth.

Buffy rushes to him as he starts to collapse - she holds him and lowers him gently down.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Don't move!

SOFIA  
I didn't know... I didn't know...

The stake drops from Sofia's hand.

BUFFY  
We have to call 911!  
(to him)  
Don't move, it's okay.

She puts her hand over the wound, trying to stem the blood.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
I need a rag... something to-

But Sofia hasn't moved. In the distance, POLICE SIRENS can be heard approaching.

The Deputy Mayor grabs Buffy's arm. His breathing becomes a rattle. He DIES.

Buffy reaches down, checks the guy's pulse. Pulls her hand back slowly. Looks at Sofia, fear in her eyes. There's a long pause. Sofia says nothing and the sound of sirens keeps growing louder...

SONHO DEMON (O.S.)  
Tut, tut, tut.

Sofia spins round - there's no-one there. She turns back - and YELPS in alarm! Buffy is right in her face, wearing a sinister grin - but the GLOWING RED EYES tell Sofia that this isn't Buffy.

It's the SONHO DEMON.

Sofia steps back, looking down at her blood-stained hands and then back at Buffy, as she starts to advance on her - morphing and changing with each step, growing taller, skin turning black, hair extending - until the demon stands before her, all seven foot of it.

SONHO DEMON (cont'd)  
Afraid you'll end up like her one  
day? Is that it?

SOFIA  
(shakes head)  
No... no, this isn't right... I  
didn't do this! This isn't me!

SONHO DEMON  
(mocking)  
It's not fair! Mummy, I wanted a  
white pony!  
(cackles)  
You've always been the same,  
haven't you, Sofia? Always believed  
that the world owed you something,  
and that it was just up to you to  
hold your hand out and take it?  
Well, guess what...

The demon suddenly GRABS Sofia's hands - and they burst into FLAMES! Sofia GASPS in pain as the demon leans in close.

SONHO DEMON (cont'd)  
Now it's my turn to collect.

The demon starts to LAUGH, keeping a tight hold on Sofia's burning hands as we cut to:

Tyson watches in horror as SMOKE starts to rise from Sofia's hands, and the skin begins to blister and turn red!

TYSON  
(calls out)  
Aiden! Aiden, something's  
happening!

Aiden rushes back in, phone in one hand.

AIDEN

What?

(sees Sofia's hands)

Oh, no...

He takes her hands, grimacing as he squeezes them, trying to channel his powers to help her as Tyson stands helplessly by.

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - DAY

The dorms are quiet, far away from the fights raging across the rest of the Academy - until the dorm room FLIES open and Heidi clatters through it!

She springs to her feet as Dana leaps into the room after her, SNARLING like a wild animal.

Heidi wipes away a smear of blood from her lips, cracking her knuckles and raising her fists.

HEIDI

Oh, you wanna go at this old school, do you?

Dana LUNGES - and Heidi floors her with a powerful PUNCH.

HEIDI (cont'd)

I invented old school, you crazy bitch!

Dana KICKS out, knocking Heidi backwards - she SLAMS into a chest of drawers, catching one of the drawers and pulling it open, spilling the contents across the floor.

Dana leaps towards her, fist raised, and Heidi just manages to raise the drawer as a shield - which Dana's fist PUNCHES clean through!

Heidi THROWS the drawer to the side, taking Dana with it, and scrambles back to her feet.

HEIDI (cont'd)

So what's the story with you?

She keeps her eyes on Dana as Dana drops to all fours, circling her and GROWLING.

DANA

Not meant to be. Not meant to have the power!

HEIDI

(raises eyebrow)

O-kay. So, if you're crazy, then I guess I don't have to feel bad about...

(CONTINUED)



13 CONTINUED:

13

She lands a PUNCH as Dana LUNGES at her again.

HEIDI (cont'd)  
... this!

Dana CRASHES into a wardrobe, almost breaking it in half, but as she SPRINGS back at Heidi and TACKLES her to the floor, we cut to:

14 INT. CAMPUS - STAIRCASE - NEXT

14

Rachel races up a staircase with Skye in hot pursuit, finding themselves up by:

15 INT. CAMPUS - OUTSIDE LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

15

Rachel throws open the library door and ducks inside. Skye starts to follow, but then hears:

SLAYER (O.S.)  
Help! Help me!

Skye hesitates - then with a curse races off in the direction of the voice.

She sees a young Slayer, barely in her teens, already soaked in her own blood as a hulking, gorilla-like DEMON attacks her. Skye narrows her eyes and calls out:

SKYE  
Hey! Son of Kong!

The demon turns to her, dropping the savaged Slayer to the floor and letting out a low GROWL.

SKYE (cont'd)  
You feel like trying to get a bite  
of some real meat?

Skye grins - and then VAMPS OUT! She takes out her sai daggers and gives them a quick twirl.

SKYE (cont'd)  
Woah... haven't done this for a  
while...

The demon ROARS and starts to charge towards her - but Skye stands her ground. The demon draws closer and closer...

16 EXT. CAMPUS - MAIN QUAD - NEXT

16

SMASH! A pair of glass windows overlooking the quad are shattered as the gorilla demon FLIES out through them, one of Skye's sai embedded in its forehead. It lands with a heavy THUD - very dead.

17

INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - NEXT

17

Skye races into the library and finds it in a real mess - several Slayers lie dead on the floor, and Catherine and the others are holed up in one corner, desperately trying to fend off a pack of demons which are HOOTING like hyenas.

Skye GROWLS, still vamped out, and throws herself at the creatures - there's a SNAP as she breaks a neck, a CRUNCH as she drives her knee into another's spine, and a soft THUNK as she sinks her dagger into a third.

Skye gets in front of Catherine and the others, her eyes fixed on the final few demons that hover nearby.

SKYE

Everyone alright?

CATHERINE

Those of us left standing, yes.

SKYE

You see Rachel come through here?

CATHERINE

Who?

SKYE

Blonde girl, tall, skinny, looks li-

RACHEL (O.S.)

Careful how you finish that!

Skye spins round - and there's Rachel! Catherine and the Slayers don't have time to react - Rachel sinks a DAGGER into Catherine's chest and KICKS Skye backwards!

Rachel slips away as Skye is grappled by the demons, and as two of the Slayers crowd around the wounded Catherine, Skye finds herself dragged over to the windows.

SKYE

(to Slayers)

Get her to the infirmary! Don't let them take-

The demons hoist her into the air - and THROW her out through the windows!

Skye YELLS as she sails out of view, and as the hungry demons turn back on the remaining Slayers, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

18

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - DAY

18

JAZ has set up a makeshift barricade by the infirmary doors - she's left enough of a gap to get the wounded in through, and there are already half a dozen bleeding Slayers scattered around. If she has to, she can seal the whole room off.

FRANKIE is leaning against one wall, a hand pressed to her belly where thick wraps of bandages poke out.

FRANKIE

Let me go out there! The others  
need me!

JAZ

You're in no state to go anywhere,  
Frankie! If I let you out of this  
infirmary I'm signing your death  
warrant!

FRANKIE

What good can I do stuck in 'ere?

JAZ

(firm)

You wouldn't last five minutes out  
there, so don't think for a second  
that you're-

Frankie's had enough. She marches towards the barricades, getting halfway there before Jaz steps in front of her.

JAZ (cont'd)

Frankie, stop it! What good is this  
going to do?

FRANKIE

What? Am I to stay 'ere with them?

She indicates the wounded Slayers with a sweep of her hand.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

Or am I to go out there and do what  
I was born to do?

JAZ

What, get murdered?

FRANKIE

(frustrated)

You were almost a Slayer once! Do  
you not understand what we must do?

(CONTINUED)

JAZ

Yes, I do! And I also understand  
how you're all not nearly as bloody  
invincible as you'd like to think  
you are!

One of the injured Slayers suddenly FAINTS, crashing to the floor, and as Jaz hurries over Frankie takes her chance to make a break for the door.

JAZ (cont'd)

Frankie! Frankie!!

Too late - she's gone. Jaz has no choice but to tend to the fainted Slayer, as we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION - DAY

Two of the four sets of doors sealing the reception off have been battered down - the demons are getting through and into the Academy by sheer weight of numbers.

Still fighting on are Debbie and Anna, with Erika propped up against a wall and swinging her staff as best she can. The fifteen Slayers they started with are down to just seven.

Anna blinks blood out of her eyes from a cut on her temples, and sees three more demons heading for the last set of closed doors.

ANNA

Over there! Go! Don't let them get  
past us!

She charges in, YANKING one demon back and THROWING him against one of the tables.

DEBBIE

Anna! Wait!

Debbie tries to back her up, but there's still another ten demons in reception to get through, and Debbie is cut off by a wall of shaggy fur as two BLOCK her.

She SHOVES back against them, but takes a CLAW to her arm for her troubles, staggering back.

Another KICK knocks her to the floor, and as she sees Anna CHOP down one of the demons but get BITTEN by another, her view is suddenly blocked as a demon looms over her.

Debbie can't move, recoiling from the demon's snarling face, spittle dripping down onto her. It ROARS - she SCREAMS...

The demon goes silent. And falls.

Debbie watches it drop in disbelief, then looks up - and there's Barbara, sword in hand! She offers her free hand to the stunned Debbie and pulls her up.

BARBARA

Come on, Debbie! We can't just lie down and let them kill us!

Barbara turns and hurries over to help Anna, busy fighting back herself, and as Debbie scoops up a huge, serrated AXE from one of the dead demons, she narrows her eyes and focuses on the nearest demon.

With a YELL, she charges in, BURYING the axe in its shoulder with a powerful SLICE, and we cut to:

The Slayers in the library are cornered by the final demons, with the two eldest, DEVON and AMELIA, taking point and keeping the demons at bay.

Until one LUNGES and GRABS Amelia, rearing back with a mouth full of fangs to bite her...

SHINK! A DAGGER spears through the demon's head from the back, cutting straight through to its open mouth.

As the demon falls, the others turn - and pulling herself up through the window, her hands bloodied and cut by broken glass, is Skye!

And she is PISSED.

Letting her vampire side take over, she ROARS with inhuman rage and LEAPS towards the demons, flooring one and TWISTING its head round before KICKING another one down.

She snatches a sword from Devon's shaking hands and SLICES the last two demons down with two neat strokes.

Panting for breath, Skye stands in the now silent library for a beat, blood dripping from her sword - before she finally closes her eyes and DE-VAMPS.

She turns to the Slayers, kneeling down by Catherine. Catherine COUGHS, a hand pressed to the wound in her belly.

SKYE

How bad is it? Can you move?

CATHERINE

(grimaces)

No, I... don't think I... can...

SKYE  
(to Devon)  
Take her and get to the infirmary.  
You see any trouble, you run away.  
Got it?

DEVON  
Y-yeah, I got it.

Skye gets up and starts to walk away.

DEVON (cont'd)  
W-wait! Where are you going?

SKYE  
To show the shape-changing piece of  
trash what happens when you stab a  
librarian on my watch!

Skye dashes out of frame, and as the Slayers carefully lift up Catherine, carrying her between them, we cut to:

Aiden is still with Sofia, bandaging her red raw hands as Tyson listens at the door - he can hear fighting very close by as Heidi and Dana continue their tussle.

TYSON  
They're getting too close. We  
should move Sofia away.

AIDEN  
We can't! We can't risk moving her  
while that thing's attacking her.

TYSON  
What are we supposed to do? Sit and  
watch?

AIDEN  
Go and get some help! Find  
somebody, anybody, and get them to  
help escort us out of here!

Tyson nods, racing out of the dorm, into:

Tyson races down the narrow corridor - pausing as a door shoots open and Heidi and Dana stumble out of it!

HEIDI  
(enraged)  
I'll show you crazy, you psyche  
ward reject!!

Dana HITS back, and as she scampers into the next set of dorms and a fired up Heidi races after her, Tyson takes the opportunity to run on.

He rounds the corner - and runs straight into Hamish! Tyson is knocked to the floor, recoiling as Hamish stands over him.

HAMISH

Ah, good. I knew you were around here somewhere.

TYSON

(terrified)

W-wh-what d-do y-you-

HAMISH

(grins)

And I'm glad I found you. I've been looking for you, Tyson.

Tyson's eyes bulge as Hamish reaches for him, and we cut to:

Delaney races out into frame, with Alita hot on her trail, the two girls racing out across the main quadrangle.

Battles rage on all sides - smashed windows show Slayers and demons fighting on either side above them, while the HOWLS of more demons echo round the complex.

DELANEY

Damn it, stop chasing me!

Delaney turns and mutters an incantation - and sends a small WAVE of blue energy towards Alita!

She neatly sidesteps it and keeps on gaining, and Delaney is forced to break left, heading for a staircase leading up to the classrooms.

Delaney looks up to the remaining glass corridor windows overhead as she passes - and with a flick of her wrist they SHATTER, raining broken glass down on Alita!

She shields her face as the glass cascades over her, slowing her down enough for Delaney to disappear through a doorway and up the stairs.

Alita's head snaps up - she's cut from the glass but the fire blazing in her eyes won't let her give up that easily.

Alita bounds up the stairs, searching for Delaney - and sees her climbing up into an air vent in the ceiling!

Alita leaps onto some lockers and VAULTS herself up after Delaney, just missing her foot but grabbing the edge of the air vent instead.

Alita starts to pull herself up into the vents, but a BOOT from Delaney knocks her back to the floor, bouncing painfully off the lockers on the way down.

Delaney pokes her head back out of the air vent, smirking down at the sprawled form of Alita.

DELANEY

Sorry. Just doing what I gotta do.

ALITA

There is no honour in running for a fight!

DELANEY

Sorry, Alita. Honour among thieves.  
Are you a thief? No? Well, then. I  
don't owe you a damn thing.

Delaney vanishes back up into the vent, and Alita jumps to her feet, running up another short flight of stairs and down a corridor, trying to follow the vent's path.

She skids to a halt as she hears a CRY for help, her expression changing to one of alarm as she recognises:

ALITA

Tyson?

She looks round, trying to hear him again - and then closes her eyes. Concentrating.

And there his voice is again.

She opens her eyes and takes off to the left, reaching a corridor with a set of windows overlooking the staff car park - and sees Hamish dragging the struggling Tyson away!

Hamish is doing his best to restrain Tyson, but he's putting up a real struggle as Hamish tries to manhandle him away.

TYSON

Let go! What do you want from me?

HAMISH

I don't want anything except for  
you to shut the hell up, lad!

TYSON

Then what does she want with me?



HAMISH

I don't ask. I know she wouldn't tell.

Tyson keeps on fighting, and Hamish HUFFS loudly.

HAMISH (cont'd)

Are ye gonna keep fighting me, or am I going to have to knock you out?

Tyson struggles again - but then sees something that makes him smile. He falls still.

HAMISH (cont'd)

That's better. Now, we should-

And with a SHOUT, Alita DROP KICKS into frame, bowling Hamish over but expertly grabbing Tyson and pulling him clear.

TYSON

Thanks! I didn't-

ALITA

Go! Get to safety!

Alita strikes a pose as Hamish picks himself up, dusting his jacket down and grinning at her.

HAMISH

I see, I see. Like that, is it?

A beat - then he throws a BOLT of energy at her! Alita pirouettes around it, dodging a second and getting closer and closer to Hamish each time.

Hamish's confident look disappears as Alita deftly ducks, jumps and dodges everything he sends her way - until his last attempt at a BARRIER backfires, and she jumps up into the air - and PUNCHES him in the jaw.

Hamish drops to the ground, and Alita quickly CHOPS him in the neck - hitting just the right spot to knock him out cold.

She stands over him as Tyson runs back into frame, full of awe at Alita's display of fighting prowess.

TYSON

That was amazing! How did you-

ALITA

I told you to get to safety!

TYSON

Yes, you did. But I had to see that with my own eyes.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

25

CONTINUED: (2)

25

TYSON (cont'd)  
(smiles)  
You're incredible, Alita.

Without warning, he grabs her and KISSES her!

TYSON (cont'd)  
Now I'll go and hide myself.

He runs off, leaving a startled Alita behind - but as a fresh wave of ROARS echo nearby, she clicks back into Slayer mode and runs off screen, as we cut to:

26

INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - NEXT

26

Frankie limps down a corridor, moving as fast as her wounded stomach will allow.

She passes a fire axe mounted on the wall, and SMASHES the glass with her elbow, yanking the axe free just as Catherine and the Slayers from the library round a corner.

FRANKIE  
Catherine! *Saint merde!* Is she-

A ROAR cuts her off - and four demons bound round the corner, in obvious hot pursuit of the library Slayers!

DEVON  
Help us! We can't lose them!

FRANKIE  
Go! I will stop them!

The Slayers race past Frankie, heading for the infirmary, as Frankie steels herself and gets ready to take on the demons.

FRANKIE (cont'd)  
Alright, you filthy *chiens*...

She gets her axe up as the first LEAPS towards her, SLAMMING it straight into its face with a meaty THUNK.

It drops - but her axe is stuck! Frankie puts a foot up on the demon's head and tries to pull it out, but it's no good.

She looks up - the others are closing in slowly, savouring the impending kill, and Frankie is in it deep as we cut to:

27

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

27

Sofia stands on the edge of an apartment rooftop, one half of a pair of HANDCUFFS hanging from her wrist.

She has a hand pressed to her belly and looks down - the hand comes away BLOODY.

(CONTINUED)

EMMA (O.S.)  
You did it...

Sofia looks up - EMMA is there, a large, ornate KNIFE in her hand - dripping with Sofia's blood.

EMMA (cont'd)  
... you killed me.

SOFIA  
Emma?

EMMA  
Still won't help your boy, though.

Sofia looks around desperately, then back down at her wound, and we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - DAY

Aiden sees a dark patch soaking through Sofia's t-shirt and pulls it back - and there's the knife wound!

AIDEN  
Damn it...

He presses his hands against the wound, trying to stop the bleeding, and as a CRASH behind him signals that Heidi and Dana are only seconds away, we cut back to:

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Emma seems dazed, her eyes glazed as Sofia limps cautiously up to her - gently taking the knife from her hands. Emma blinks, looking up as if seeing Sofia for the first time.

EMMA  
(quiet)  
Limey?

Sofia grins and HUGS her, grimacing with pain again as she releases Emma.

EMMA (cont'd)  
(sees wound)  
Woah! What happened?

SOFIA  
(off knife)  
I think you stabbed me.  
(looks around)  
I know this story. We must be in  
some kind of-

And the Sonho Demon steps into frame, CLAPPING very slowly.

SONHO DEMON

You worked it out at long last!  
What all this ties in to?

SOFIA

It's me, isn't it? My destiny.  
Being a Slayer. But it's more than  
that - it's about being Buffy's  
successor. These are her memories.

SONHO DEMON

And yet you're the one reliving  
them. Wonder why that is?

EMMA

Don't listen to him, honey, he's  
just trying to-

SOFIA

I know exactly what he's trying to  
do, and he's not going to bloody  
well do it if I have anything to do  
about it!

She scoops the bloody knife up from the floor and turns  
defiantly to the sonho demon.

SOFIA (cont'd)

I know what this is. You're playing  
on my fears, aren't you? You know I  
don't think I'm good enough to take  
over from Buffy, and you're just  
trying to overload me with it!

EMMA

(wary)

Sofia...

SOFIA

Well, listen up! It's not going to  
work! I've been dealing with this  
since the day Buffy gave me that  
bloody Scythe, and I'm not about to  
let-

Sofia stops. GASPS. Looks down.

THE SCYTHER is buried in her gut - and the Sonho Demon is the  
one holding it!

SONHO DEMON

I'm sorry - were you saying  
something?

EMMA

Sofia!!

(CONTINUED)

Sofia falls backwards, hitting the floor with a THUD as the demon LAUGHS, throwing its head back. Emma crouches down beside Sofia, who COUGHS, blood spilling from her lips.

EMMA (cont'd)

No... no! Come on, Sofia, fight it!  
This is only real if you let it be  
real! You can beat him!

SOFIA

I... c-c-an't...

EMMA

Bullcrap, you can't! Come on! You  
can do this! You have to!

SOFIA

(shaking)

I-I-I'm... s-sor-ry...

A shadow falls across them, and she looks up - the demon is looming over them both. He looks almost sad.

SONHO DEMON

It has been entertaining, but now  
it is over. When she dies, so will  
your last link to this plane.

EMMA

She's not dead yet!

SONHO DEMON

Ah, defiance. Such a recognisable  
human trait. And so easily confused  
with blissful ignorance.

The demon's hand suddenly LASHES out, clamping around Emma's head, and as a bright white LIGHT appears under his hand, Emma SCREAMS, and we cut to:

Aiden wipes his brow - Sofia's wounded side is now much worse, and he's doing what he can to staunch the bleeding. He looks desperately down at his hands.

AIDEN

Come on! Do something!

He places his hands back - just as the dorm room doors finally burst open to reveal Heidi and Dana!

Aiden is knocked down as the two girls spill into the room. Heidi is black and blue, and she can barely stand, but while Dana hasn't got off lightly either, she's running on pure adrenaline now.

(CONTINUED)

Heidi glares fiercely at her, spitting through a mouthful of bloodied teeth:

HEIDI

Come on! I thought you were the killer! You're not even trying!

DANA

Like hers, but different!!

HEIDI

God! Will you shut up?!?

Screaming, Heidi DIVES towards Dana in a last outburst of strength – but Dana levels her with a PUNCH, then grabs Heidi and RAMS her knee into her chest, before FLINGING her across the room.

Heidi hits the wall and slides down to the floor. She's out. Aiden drags himself to his feet and sees Dana standing over Sofia. Dana draws a long dagger, eyes wet with tears.

DANA

Finish what you started, Dana. Only way they'll understand.

AIDEN

No!!

DANA

Have to make sure... make sure she never does it...

Aiden's too far away. Dana's dagger spears down...

And with a metallic CLANG, another SWORD shoots into frame to block the dagger!

Dana boggles, following the sword to its owner.

It's a TEENAGER, Sofia's age, tall and with neat, dark hair. Another sword is strapped across his back. He grins at Dana, his muscles bulging as he keeps her dagger locked in place.

TEENAGER

(Australian accent)

Sorry, mate... but I just can't let you do that.

From Dana's shocked look, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

31

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - DAY

31

Back with the new arrival, locked in the stalemate with Dana.

DANA

(shakes head)

Can't open them all! Too many!

TEENAGER

(eyes her)

Right...

He SWINGS his sword up, knocking her back, and quickly gets between Dana and Sofia as she recovers.

DANA

Aren't you listening?!?

TEENAGER

Oh, I'm listening...

SMACK! He floors her with a sudden RIGHT HOOK.

TEENAGER (cont'd)

... I just don't care.

Dana hits the deck. She starts to rise, but Braeden PUNCHES her three more times - and she's out for the count. Braeden steps back, shaking his fist, as he hears:

VOICE (O.S.)

Braeden? Braeden! Where are you?

The teenager, or BRAEDEN as he is known, turns to the door as another person runs in - a stocky man in his thirties with short black hair. This is BRYCE.

BRYCE

(Australian accent)

Where the bloody hell did you go?

BRAEDEN

You said she was in here! Good job I ran off ahead, too - look what I found!

BRYCE

The whole place is swarming with half a dozen types of demon, we take an hour just to sneak past them all, and then you run off and leave me by myself? What do you think I am, a bloody Slayer?

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN

Uh...

They both turn to Aiden, who is staring incredulously.

AIDEN (cont'd)

Who are you?

BRYCE

Name's Bryce, mate. I'm with that little bundle of mischief.

BRAEDEN

And I'm Braeden.

(nods)

G'day.

Aiden stares at him, then slowly reaches out to shake his hand at last.

AIDEN

What are you-

BRYCE

Not much time to explain. Long story short, we're on your side, and I understand you're having a sonho demon problem with yer little miss down there.

AIDEN

Uh, yeah, it's been attacking her all night but we can't get through to her to help her.

Bryce and Braeden exchange a concerned look, and as they turn back to Sofia, we cut to:

The sonho demon suddenly lets go of Emma, who falls, gasping, back to the floor next to Sofia as the demon looks to the sky, suddenly unnerved.

SONHO DEMON

That power...

Heaving for breath, Emma drags herself over to Sofia, taking advantage of the demon's distraction.

EMMA

Hey... Limey?

SOFIA

(weakly)

Yes?



EMMA

I think... I think we're screwed.

SOFIA

Could have told you that...

EMMA

But... I think I know a way out.

SOFIA

I find that... highly unlikely...

EMMA

Just trust me. You'll know what to do when the time comes.

Emma pushes herself up to her feet, walking bravely towards the demon. It turns to her at last.

EMMA (cont'd)

Is something wrong?

SONHO DEMON

I was... what do you mean?

EMMA

Well, one second you're all 'feast on the soul of the dead Texan girl!' and the next you just space out on me and walk off! What's up with that? Am I not good enough for you to kill or something?

SONHO DEMON

(tilts head sideways)

You... want me to finish you off now?

EMMA

Wasn't that the plan?

SONHO DEMON

I was planning on keeping you around to provide me sustenance for some time...

EMMA

Well, I wasn't. Just get it over and done with. We both know it'll be better that way. You'll get a big hold high that'll keep you buzzing for weeks, and I get to finally see what the other side looks like. What do you say?

(CONTINUED)

Sofia watches, still too weak to move - but spots Emma's hand, pointing towards the Scythe the demon used to stab her.

SONHO DEMON

You understand what you are asking?

EMMA

I understand that if all it takes to get out of here is to ask you politely to kill me now instead of later, then yeah, go on and do it already!

Sofia pushes herself up onto her knees, slowly reaching for the Scythe nearby.

The sonho demon reaches out one long, clawed hand, and Emma tries not to let her brave face drop...

The claw CLAMPS around her head again, and as the bright light SHINES once again around Emma's head, she starts to GRUNT with pain - trying not to scream!

The demon's concentration is elsewhere, and using the Scythe as a support Sofia pushes herself upright.

The demon has its back to her, focusing on draining the last of Emma's essence, and Sofia squeezes the Scythe handle tightly as she lifts it up..

With a final SCREAM, Emma DISAPPEARS, the sonho demon's entire body BLAZING with white light, and it staggers back a step, swaying as though intoxicated - but then starts to CONVULSE, staggering backwards.

SONHO DEMON

No... no! Get out... get away!

EMMA (O.S)

Sofia! Now!!

And that's when Sofia CUTS IT IN TWO with one swing of the Scythe!

The demon's two halves flop to the rooftop with a wet SQUISH, and the white light that had been coursing through its body stays where it was, burning fiercely.

Sofia has to shield her eyes - but then the light fades, and when she lowers her hand she sees Emma standing before her - but Emma is TRANSPARENT this time.

SOFIA

What... what happened?

(CONTINUED)

EMMA

Lucky guess.

SOFIA

You... guessed?!? It could have finished us both off!

EMMA

Hey, it worked, didn't it? Felt it when that thing was snacking off me before. Its own power faded as it sucked mine in, so I figured taking someone's soul like that had to weaken it, make it vulnerable to attack. Plus, you used one of its own weapons against it. That's got to have helped.

Sofia looks down at the Scythe in her hands - which GLOWS brightly and then fades away!

Sofia looks around - everything around them is starting to GLOW and fade away, as the sonho demon's body turns black and starts to MELT into the floor.

SOFIA

Is that it? Is it... over?

EMMA

For both of us, yeah. I think this is my last goodbye, Limey.

Emma seems to be fading away, along with the rooftop itself.

SOFIA

But... no! This can't... I don't want this to be the last time I see you! It can't be!

EMMA

Can't be helped. At least I took care of my unfinished business.

(off demon)

Reckon that was what was keeping me here. Had to take that out before I could move on.

Sofia smiles - a TEAR rolling down her cheek.

SOFIA

(softly)

Thank you...

EMMA

It was nothing. Fun while it lasted.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EMMA (cont'd)

(beat)

Apart from the 'being dead' part.  
That kinda sucked.

Sofia manages a laugh - Emma's almost gone by now.

SOFIA

Wait! Don't go yet! Will I... will  
I ever see you again?

EMMA

Maybe. Who knows?

(smiles)

Take care of yourself, Sofia.  
You've got a lot of bad things  
coming your way.

Sofia's smile suddenly drops - but Emma is gone.

SOFIA

Emma? Emma! Emma!!

What's left of the rooftop around her starts to SHIMMER and  
GLOW brilliant white, and we WHITE OUT into:

Sofia suddenly JUMPS UP in bed with a yell:

SOFIA

Emma!

She blinks, trying to get her bearing - and reacts at the  
unfamiliar faces looking down at her!

SOFIA (cont'd)

Where am-

AIDEN

Sofia? Sofia!

He HUGS her tightly, and she manages a sigh of relief.

SOFIA

I'm home...

AIDEN

You're home.

SOFIA

Who are...

BRAEDEN

Oh, I'm Braeden, this is Mr. Bryce.

BRYCE

Hello.

Sofia frowns, turning to Aiden.

SOFIA  
What are they doing here?

AIDEN  
According to them, they're here to help.

SOFIA  
Help with what?  
(hits her)  
The attack! Is the Academy-

BRAEDEN  
In a big pile of trouble? Yes, it is. Feel like coming outside and helping me take care of a few bad guys?

Sofia tries to get up, but WINCES - Aiden's patched up her wound as best he can, but it's far from healed.

AIDEN  
Easy! I don't know what was happening to you in there, but it didn't look pretty from out here.

SOFIA  
You wouldn't believe me if I told you... Where are Skye and the others?

AIDEN  
Out in the field.

SOFIA  
Then that's where we need to be.

She starts to get up - and Braeden offers his hand to help. After a beat, she takes it, getting to her feet at last. She gestures toward Braeden's sword.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
I take it you know your way around one of those, then?

BRAEDEN  
Like it was my own arm. A metal, spikey arm, but still...

Sofia throws open the chest at the foot of her bed - and takes out the SCYTHE. The real one.

SOFIA  
Then let's go hunting.

She turns and leaves the dorm, closely followed by Braeden. Bryce and Aiden are left behind in a moment of awkward silence, before:

BRYCE

So... how's it going?

Aiden blinks, and we cut to:

The barricade is closed, and Jaz paces anxiously up and down, glancing over to the wounded behind her. Two bodies are covered with sheets, and the remaining Slayers look like they've accepted this is the end.

There's a sudden KNOCK at the door, and everyone jumps and turns round.

JAZ

(whispers)

Nobody make a sound, it could be-

FRANKIE (O.S.)

(filtered; through door)

Open the *baiser* door!

Jaz sighs with relief, hurrying over to the barricades and pushing it open just enough to let the door open - and Frankie drags herself inside.

JAZ

Are you alright? What happened?

Frankie looks like she just lost a fight with the X-Men - but she's still on her feet.

FRANKIE

I found I am a much better fighter  
than anyone gives me credit for!

JAZ

(glances down)

What happened to your shoes?

Frankie throws her a look, and we cut to:

The four demons last seen assaulting Frankie are here - one with the fire axe blade in its head, another with the detached handle through its eye socket, and two more have one of Frankie's stiletto heeled shoes piercing their necks.

It doesn't look like it was a particularly dignified fight, but at least all four demons are dead!

36

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NEXT

36

Frankie grimaces as Jaz helps her to sit down. Catherine is lying on one of the tables in the background, her wound already cleaned and dressed.

FRANKIE

They 'ave gone on to a better place. What is our situation?

AMELIA

Our 'situation' is that we're a bunch of wounded Slayers, cut off from the rest of the campus. We're no good to anyone.

FRANKIE

(sharp)

'As anybody tried to go for 'elp?

JAZ

How can we? The only way out is up through that...

(hits her)

... air vent.

FRANKIE

(nods)

Bon! Then raise me to the roof and I will go fetch us some assistance.

JAZ

Alright, now I really am going to have to put my foot down - you can barely walk! How can you expect to go for help in that state?

FRANKIE

Air vents, *non*? Then I do not need to walk - only crawl.

Jaz blinks - but Frankie SNAPS her fingers, and the other Slayers bring a chair over for her to stand on. Stretching up, the tall Frankie reaches the air vent and with a few BASHES of Slayer strength pops it open.

JAZ

You're not seriously going to try this, are you?

FRANKIE

What other choice do we 'ave?

With that, she pulls herself up into the vents, and as the rest of the infirmary watches her go, we cut to:

37 INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - NEXT

37

A pack of demons lumber past, trying to hunt out more Slayers - but the last demon pauses as its comrades turn round a corner.

Once they're all out of sight, the demon looks round - and then starts to MORPH into a different shape! Fur withdraws into skin, fangs shrink and the whole body slims out - to reveal Rachel.

She takes a deep breath, running her hands through her hair, then turns - and SMACK! Skye lays her out with a PUNCH.

SKYE

See, that's the thing about hiding  
by dressing up like a monster...

(grins)

... takes one to know one.

RACHEL

Come to take me down yourself?

SKYE

(nods)

I owe you two now. One for  
Catherine in the library and  
another for that suckerpunch you  
pulled on me back on sports day.

RACHEL

(surprised)

You remembered that?

SKYE

(shrugs)

It's a gift.

Rachel darts forward, and as she and Skye start trading  
blows, we cut to:

38 INT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION - NEXT

38

Demon and Slayer bodies litter the reception area - but  
Debbie, Erika, Anna, Barbara and a handful more are still  
standing.

ANNA

Is that it?

BARBARA

I think that's the last of them.

DEBBIE

How can you tell?

(CONTINUED)



ANNA

I think it's the part where they  
stopped coming long enough for us  
to talk about it, Debs!

Erika hobbles towards them - every one of them shows the  
signs of a severe beating, with torn clothes, bloodied wounds  
and other injuries.

ERIKA

Then we must start cleaning up the  
demons that remain.

DEBBIE

Oh, yeah, just us against  
everything that got past us, which,  
I seem to remember, was a whole  
hell of a lot!

ERIKA

Well then...

Erika pushes a fresh sword into Debbie's hands as she limps  
past her.

ERIKA (cont'd)

... we had better get started.

Erika leads the way as the other Slayers fall in behind her,  
stepping carefully over the dead bodies around them and  
heading into the canteen.

They've been gone a few moments when a black-clad figure  
creeps stealthily into the reception - it's Delaney.

She starts to head for the staff room corridor, taking out a  
small piece of paper from her jacket.

ALITA (O.S.)

Would that be your shopping list?

Delaney freezes and turns round - and there's Alita.

DELANEY

(scowls)

How do you do that?

ALITA

Do what?

DELANEY

Sneak up on people all the time!

ALITA

(shrugs)

I'm very quiet.

(CONTINUED)

A beat - then Alita CHARGES towards Delaney! Delaney's too quick, jumping up onto a table and pushing off from the wall, neatly flipping over Alita's head.

Alita turns to see Delaney running for a staircase leading up, and is quickly on her trail as they head onto:

Delaney shoves open a door and stumbles out onto the small rooftop - but realises she's run into a dead end.

DELANEY

Damn it!

She turns - and Alita is standing in the doorway. Delaney looks up - it's starting to rain. She throws up her hands.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Okay, you got me. I'm cornered.

Guess you'd better bring me in.

She holds out her hands, as if to receive a pair of handcuffs, but as the stony-faced Alita stalks across the roof towards her, Delaney quickly twigs what's on her mind.

But not before Alita lands a powerful PUNCH across Delaney's jaw, knocking her back.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Ow!

(rubs jaw)

Okay, I see how this is going to go down.

ALITA

The only thing that will be 'going down' is you!

DELANEY

Oh, that's original.

ALITA

And after that, we shall have a conversation about who killed my mother.

Delaney lets a slow smirk creep across her face - and Alita rushes in to the attack again, as we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

40

EXT. CAMPUS - MAIN ENTRANCE - ROOFTOP - NEXT

40

Delaney is ready for her this time, meeting her head on and swiftly blocking every punch, kick and chop.

Alita spins round, leg kicking out, but Delaney bends over backwards to dodge it, following on into a back flip - and KICKING Alita in the chest as she flips.

Alita stumbles but bounces back, twisting left and right, her fists lashing out and forcing Delaney back towards the edge.

Delaney ducks one swing and ELBOWS Alita in the gut, pushing her backwards and using her momentum to SHOVE Alita to the ground and flip herself over in mid-air.

Delaney lands lightly as Alita flips back up, the two back to sparring as they exchange punches - Alita's punches are clearly wearing her down.

DELANEY

You know what I hate most about  
fighting you Slayers?

Delaney ducks another roundhouse before she can answer.

DELANEY (cont'd)

The way you make me have to break  
my own rules.

There's a GLINT of something metallic - and suddenly Delaney has a knife in her hand!

Alita goes for another chop - but leaves her side open.  
Delaney lunges forward - and sinks the knife into her!

Alita GASPS, her eyes going wide, and Delaney TWISTS the knife, her face scowling with rage.

DELANEY (cont'd)

And I really, really hate that.

She holds the knife in for another beat - and the WRENCHES it free. Alita staggers backwards - and then sinks to the floor.

Delaney steps back, looking down on her - BLOOD starts to spill from Alita's side out onto the gravel of the rooftop, the rain washing down across the scene.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Sorry it ended up like this...

Delaney flicks Alita's blood from the knife.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY (cont'd)  
... but like I said before - I'm  
just doing what I gotta do.

She crouches down, leaning in close to Alita, who is trying to move but finding her strength slipping away.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
And for what it's worth, I don't  
know who killed your mom.

With that, she stands, and with a final look down at Alita she turns and walks away, exiting back through the doorway.

As Alita gasps for breath, watching her life spill out onto the rooftop, the only sound is of her laboured breathing and the falling rain - and we cut to:

41 INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - DAY

41

Rachel hurries into frame, scanning all around but seeing nothing but dead demons and the occasional dead Slayer.

RACHEL  
(calls out)  
Dana? Dana!

She continues searching - then her smile fades as she sees Sofia and Braeden round a corner and see her, weapons ready!

She spins on her heel and races away, moments before Sofia and Braeden rush into frame, Sofia having to pull to a stop, clutching her wounded side.

BRAEDEN  
You can't run on that, mate.

SOFIA  
(gritted teeth)  
I'm fine. And stop calling me  
'mate'! We only just met!

BRAEDEN  
Yeah, I think the trail of blood  
leading from here back to your room  
kind of negates that statement.  
Maybe you should-

SOFIA  
(snaps)  
Look, the last time I checked, you  
weren't a student here, and  
therefore you have absolutely zero  
authority to tell me what I can and  
can't do!

(CONTINUED)

Sofia pushes herself upright again, gripping her Scythe tightly and turning to Braeden.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
Now, I'm going to go after those two and try to stop them. You're either with me, or you can go and find somebody else to baby-sit.

BRAEDEN  
(beat)  
Lead the way.

Sofia starts off again, with Braeden falling in behind her - and a wry smile on his face. They get a few steps before:

SKYE (O.S)  
Sofes! Wait up!

They turn to see Skye hurrying towards them - she's taken a real beating too, but doesn't look like giving up just yet.

SKYE (cont'd)  
(relieved)  
You're up!

SOFIA  
Yes, I am.

SKYE  
What happened? Did you-

SOFIA  
Skye, there really isn't time to go over the details now.

SKYE  
(deflated)  
Right.  
(off Braeden)  
Who's the beefcake?

BRAEDEN  
(offers hand)  
Braeden Donovan. Here to help.

SKYE  
(eyes him)  
O-kay...

SOFIA  
Come on, we can't Rachel get away again!

The trio start down the corridor - and stop as they hear a SCRATCHING coming from the air vent above them!

(CONTINUED)

They look up to the vent as it starts to RATTLE - and then POPS open, hitting the floor with a CLANG!

The trio fan out, weapons ready - but it's Frankie's dirt-streaked face that peers down at them.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
Frankie?

SKYE  
When did you become a chimney  
sweep?

FRANKIE  
Do not just stand there, 'elp me  
get down!

Sofia and Skye reach up to help Frankie lower herself down into the corridor. She dusts herself down.

FRANKIE (cont'd)  
Merde! I did not realise 'ow much  
filth is up there!  
(sees Braeden)  
Who is this?

SKYE  
New kid.

BRAEDEN  
Hey. Braeden Donovan.

SOFIA  
He's with me.  
(beat)  
I think.

SKYE  
Okay, introductions are over -  
we've got a hot pursuit veering  
sharply towards luke warm to be  
getting on with. Let's go!

The reunited group race off down the corridor again.

SOFIA  
Where's Alita?

FRANKIE  
I 'ave not seen 'er.

SKYE  
I'm sure she's fine. You know Allie  
- she can take care of herself.

They turn a corner out of view, and we cut to:

42 EXT. CAMPUS - CLASSROOM CORRIDOR - NEXT

42

Debbie and another young Slayer are walking beneath the library, passing a row of classrooms facing a small garden and looking out for any stray demons.

With a WHAM the staircase doors next to them fly open, and they're bowled over as Rachel hurtles out.

DEBBIE

Hey! Stop!

Debbie GRABS Rachel as she tries to get past, but as Rachel slowly turns to glare at her, Debbie realises that may not have been such a good idea...

43 INT. CAMPUS - STAIRCASE - NEXT

43

Frankie is out front as the team reach the staircase leading out beneath the library, halfway down the stairs when she hears a CRASH!

She looks down - the unconscious Debbie has been thrown straight through the doors at the foot of the stairs!

FRANKIE

Debbie!

She hurries over to her, lifting her limp body up - then she sees a DEMON standing just past the ruined doorway!

Frankie draws her sword - but the demon CHUCKLES and begins to MORPH into a new shape. Yup, it's Rachel.

RACHEL

It's always the rookies you have to look out for, isn't it?

Frankie glares back at her, protectively shielding Debbie's body as she hears the others reach the top of the stairs.

FRANKIE

I 'ope you don't think you can just walk away from 'ere!

RACHEL

Think? No.

Rachel reaches into her jacket - and draws out a GRENADE!

RACHEL (cont'd)

I know I will.

Frankie's eyes go wide as Rachel pulls the pin and tosses the grenade towards her!

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

(yells)

Get back! There's a-

KABOOM! Sofia, Skye and Braeden are thrown to their feet as a huge EXPLOSION rocks the stairwell, and Braeden has to drag Sofia back as the staircase starts to COLLAPSE!

SOFIA

(screams)

Frankie! Frankie!!

The girls watch in horror as the staircase crumbles away, reduced to a pile of smoking rubble in seconds.

SOFIA (cont'd)

(frantic)

No! Frankie! Frankie!!

BRAEDEN

I'll get her out! Go! Both of you!

Braeden leaps down onto the rubble, starting to rapidly dig his way through it as Skye drags the devastated Sofia away.

SKYE

Sofia, snap out of it!

SOFIA

(incredulous)

'Snap out of it'? Frankie needs us!  
She could be-

SKYE

(interrupts; firm)

What Frankie would want is for us  
to go and kill the bitch that did  
this to her, not make with the  
wailing and gnashing!

(glances back)

Besides, looks like your new  
boyfriend can handle things.

With Sofia still badly shaken, Skye leads her way, onto:

Rachel hurries across the quad, seeing Delaney heading towards her. There seems to be a lot of dead demon bodies scattered around now, and it's still raining heavily.

RACHEL

Can we get out of here yet?

DELANEY

Not yet. Ran into a little trouble.



RACHEL

What kind of 'trouble'?

DELANEY

About five foot two with black hair.

(smirks)

I took care of it.

RACHEL

I'm getting the feeling that our fearless leader's little massacre hasn't quite turned out the way she planned...

A window SHATTERS in the corridor overhead, and a decidedly dead demon SLAMS into the ground.

DELANEY

Yeah, me too...

RACHEL

Let's go.

DELANEY

I didn't get what I came here for yet! She must have it with her, or-

SKYE (O.S.)

Hey! Whores-R-Us!

The rogues turn - Sofia and Skye are marching towards them. Delaney's grin returns when her eyes fall on the Scythe in Sofia's hands.

DELANEY

There you are...

SKYE

Couldn't help but notice you two standing on our property. Now, you know, I don't know what the laws are for that in this country...

(draws daggers)

... but where I come from, that gives me the right to kick both your asses.

SOFIA

No.

(points Scythe at Delaney)

She's mine.

DELANEY

Wouldn't want it any other way, squirt!

(CONTINUED)

SKYE  
(to Rachel)  
Looks like it's your bottle blonde  
self and me, then!

RACHEL  
Poetic. I like it.

The four girls square off, weapons drawn. This is it.

DELANEY  
Any last words?

SKYE  
Meh. Ask me later.

Skye's the first to break, and as she and Rachel launch into a furious display of sparring, with fists flying at blinding speed, Sofia and Delaney lock swords, circling each other and duelling like a pair of swashbucklers.

Rachel SWEEPS her leg round but Skye hops over it, KICKING her in the chest and following it with a ONE-TWO of punches.

Delaney SLICES with her sword, then tries to ZAP Sofia with a crackle of ELECTRICITY from her other hand, but Sofia dodges it, SLAMMING her palm into Delaney's throat.

Delaney staggers back, choking, and Sofia follows up with a roundhouse KICK that knocks Delaney to the floor.

Rachel and Skye have started grappling, neither one able to gain an inch as they lock arms.

RACHEL  
Don't you people ever get tired of  
fighting on this side all the time?

SKYE  
It's the only side that'll have me.

RACHEL  
We both know that isn't true.

Skye narrows her eyes - and HEADBUTTS Rachel!

SKYE  
Yeah, well... I'm dumb like that.

Skye doesn't get chance to press her advantage as Rachel TACKLES her to the ground, hitting the puddle-soaked quadrangle floor with a SPLASH.

Delaney is back on her feet, blocking all of Sofia's attacks with her sword, raising a grin as Sofia gets angrier.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY

Losing focus a little, aren't you,  
pint size?

SOFIA

Shut up!

DELANEY

You ought to take some lessons off  
your friend Alita.

SOFIA

I manage just fine by myself!

DELANEY

Guess she thought the same thing.  
Pity she's dead now.

Sofia freezes - and Delaney FLOORS her with a vicious  
uppercut. Sofia gets her Scythe up as Delaney tries to CHOKE  
her with her sword, the two struggling against each other.

SOFIA

She's not... you're lying!

DELANEY

Go check the roof if you don't  
believe me! And trust me - I hate  
having to kill people, but for some  
reason, with her it was a lot  
easier...

SOFIA

No!

Sofia SHOVES her back, swinging the Scythe upwards and  
SLICING Delaney's sword in two, and before the stunned  
Delaney can react, Sofia KICKS her to the ground.

Rachel is distracted for half a second - and that's all Skye  
needs to VAMP OUT and sink her FANGS into Rachel's neck!

Rachel SCREAMS - and then starts to MORPH into a vampire  
herself! She pushes Skye away, pressing a hand to her wounded  
neck - and as soon as the contact is broken, Rachel changes  
back to her usual features.

Skye tilts her head to one side, lazily licking her lips as  
Rachel staggers backwards.

SKYE

Now that's interesting...

Skye de-vamps, and Rachel is too slow to move as Skye drives  
her FIST into her face, knocking her down. Rachel starts to  
rise, but then slumps. She's out.

(CONTINUED)

Sofia PUNCHES Delaney as she tries to get up, but Delaney SWEEPS her off her feet and ELBOWS her in the gut.

Sofia cries out as Delaney hits the wound in her side, and Skye starts to run over as she sees Sofia in trouble.

DELANEY

Hey! Get back!

Delaney pushes her palm out - and a wave of blue energy throws Skye off her feet, sending her crashing to the ground.

DELANEY (cont'd)

(breathless)

She said... this was between me...  
and her!

Delaney stalks over to Sofia, who is on all fours and trying to push herself back up. Fresh blood drips from her wound.

DELANEY (cont'd)

So this is how it goes down, huh?

She KICKS Sofia in the gut, flipping her onto her back.

DELANEY (cont'd)

The big hero falls at the last  
hurdle.

She STAMPS on Sofia's chest.

DELANEY (cont'd)

(snarling)

The one they all want to grow up to  
belike loses her lunch, right at  
the finish!

Delaney GRABS Sofia by the hair and drags her to her feet. Her KNIFE is back in her hand.

DELANEY (cont'd)

It's a shame, really. We could've  
been good on the same team. Guess  
things just work out differently  
sometimes.

She rears back - and three black HELICOPTERS suddenly swoop overhead with a ROAR!

Delaney is distracted - and Sofia snaps back to her senses. POW! One punch knocks Delaney back, dropping the knife.

CRUNCH! A Kick to her stomach has her teetering, and WHACK! A final uppercut blows Delaney backwards. Her head CRACKS off the stone paving, but Sofia doesn't stop there.

(CONTINUED)

She reaches down, grabs Delaney by her jacket, lifts her up - and PUNCHES her one last time. Delaney hits the ground hard. BLOOD starts to trickle out onto the slabs.

Sofia looks up at last - three unmarked helicopters are hovering over the quadrangle, and as Skye reaches her at last, they watch as the 'copters' side doors slide open, and RAPPEL LINES are thrown down.

SKYE  
Reinforcements?

They watch as several teams of MARINES start to rappel down the lines into the quad.

SOFIA  
Reinforcements.

The marines hit the ground and quickly fan out - and Ellen marches over to Sofia and Skye as the sounds of GUNFIRE and demonic HOWLS start to ring through the campus.

ELLEN  
Sorry we're late! Is there anything  
left to do?

SOFIA  
(woozy)  
I'm sure you'll be able to find  
someth...

Sofia trails off, sways, and then wilts at last, and as Skye catches her, we cut to:

45 INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - NEXT

45

A team of three terrified Slayers are trapped, cornered by a pair of huge demons that creep towards them, HISSING and raising spines across their back...

... until a series of GUNSHOTS ring out and the creatures drop to the floor! The stunned Slayers look up as two Initiative marines walk forward, one nodding to them.

MARINE  
It's alright, ladies. Help has  
arrived.

We cut from the relieved Slayers to:

46 EXT. CAMPUS - MAIN GATES - NEXT

46

Kira stands by the limousine with a face like thunder as she watches the helicopters swoop above the Academy.

(CONTINUED)

KIRA

Gentlemen, I believe our situation  
just became untenable.

PEGRI

No kidding.

She turns to her side - Hamish is there, sporting some big  
bruises from her tussle with Alita.

KIRA

Get back in there and bring the  
girls out. It's cheaper to just fix  
them up than find new help.

Still rubbing his jaw, Hamish grudgingly heads back towards  
the campus, as we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - STAIRCASE - NEXT

With more GUNSHOTS and ROARS ringing out, two marines find  
the stairwell destroyed by Rachel - and see Braeden, still  
digging through the wreckage. One of the marines steps into  
frame - it's DUNSTALL!

DUNSTALL

Hey! Are you alright? What  
happened?

BRAEDEN

There's somebody stuck under all  
this! Can you give a man a hand?

Dunstall heads over, helping Braeden heave one large chunk of  
rubble out of the way - revealing the unconscious Frankie!

DUNSTALL

(horrified)

No...

Braeden checks her pulse.

BRAEDEN

It's alright, mate, she's alive -  
but we have to get her out of here!

Braeden resumes digging, and as Dunstall calls for more help  
and continues excavating her, revealing Debbie sheltered  
underneath her, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT FOUR**

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

48

EXT. CAMPUS - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

48

A small crowd has gathered outside the campus reception - Barbara stands with Erika and Anna, watching as Initiative marines troop in and out of the campus.

Two private AMBULANCES are parked nearby, with pretty much every Slayer left standing huddled around them. Aiden is passing out blankets and mugs of tea.

He hands one to Barbara, who takes a sip, wincing - she's sporting a nasty cut down one cheek.

BARBARA

Don't we have anything stronger?

Aiden grins - and produces a HIP FLASK from his jeans. He pours a shot into Barbara's mug and then walks away.

ERIKA

How is Deborah?

BARBARA

She's not too bad, considering.  
Frankie managed to shield her from  
the worst of the cave-in, but...

ANNA

But Frankie wasn't so lucky.

Barbara glances towards one of the ambulances - Sofia and Skye are standing outside the back doors.

Inside the ambulance, Frankie is wrapped up on one gurney - and Alita on the next. Both girls are hooked up to oxygen masks and have a PARAMEDIC fussing over them.

SOFIA

How is... I mean, will they...

PARAMEDIC

It's too soon to say. Your Japanese friend suffered a severe stab wound and lost a lot of blood, while Miss DuCont was trapped under a lot of debris. She may have internal injuries, so we need to get her to the hospital right away.

SOFIA

You have to be careful! She's...  
she's pregnant.

(CONTINUED)

The paramedic blinks, then glances towards Barbara.

PARAMEDIC

Does your headmistress know about this?

SOFIA

No. And I think Frankie would rather it stayed that way.

SKYE

C'mon, Sofes. Let the people do their thing.

Skye gently pulls Sofia back as the paramedic pulls the doors shut, then as its SIRENS kick back in, the ambulance starts to head back towards the driveway.

Sofia watches it go as Skye steps closer to her, hands in her pockets.

SKYE (cont'd)

So...

SOFIA

If this is about what the demon said, I don't still think you-

SKYE

(raises hand)

Stop right there. I'm willing to forget the whole thing... if you make me a promise right now.

SOFIA

I'm listening.

SKYE

You stop pushing everyone away. We're all your friends here, Sofes. It's time you started remembering that. Running away never solved anything.

A beat as Sofia looks away, thinking it over.

SOFIA

I'll try.

(turns to Skye)

No guarantees.

SKYE

Close enough.

They shake hands, managing a smile, before Skye turns to see Braeden heading over to them.

(CONTINUED)



BRAEDEN

She'll be alright. I pulled your friend out of there myself.

SOFIA

Thank you.

BRAEDEN

Just doing my job.

SKYE

Yeah, you feel like reminding us what that is again?

BRAEDEN

Isn't it obvious?

(off looks)

I'm a Slayer.

A wide-eyed Sofia and Skye share a dumbstruck look, as we rejoin Barbara - and Bryce walks over to her.

BRYCE

(offers hand)

G'day. Name's Bryce, I'm here with the young fella over there.

BARBARA

Couldn't help but notice him. Would you mind telling me who you are and why you're here. Mr. Bryce?

BRYCE

No worries. Official Council business. I was based over in Sydney when I came across Braeden, and on the advice of my Council reps over there we were flown out here to join your Academy.

BARBARA

I don't follow. Why would he want to join the Academy? It's a school for Slayers. They have a unique tendency to be female.

BRYCE

Or so we thought.

Barbara frowns, confused, and looks towards Braeden - but the moment is broken as a CAR suddenly tears down the driveway.

ANNA

(tenses up)

Now what?

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

It's alright. It's Greg.

Barbara heads over as Greg's car skids to a halt, and the man himself clambers out. He looks frantically round at the aftermath of the attack - Initiative agents load dead demons into a row of covered trucks, wounded Slayers hover by the ambulances, and less fortunate Slayers' bodies lie on the ground, covered by sheets.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Greg! We tried to-

GREG

What... what happened?

BARBARA

We were attacked. An overwhelming force of demons broke into the campus. We'd have been finished off if Ellen hadn't managed to get back in time with reinforcements.

(beat)

Where have you been?

GREG

Is everybody... who made it?

BARBARA

We lost fourteen girls, and nobody escaped without some kind of injury. Frankie, Alita and Debbie are all on their way to the nearest hospital. The Council stepped in to get them the best care they needed.

GREG

What about-

AIDEN (O.S.)

Greg!

He looks up as Aiden hurries over, throwing his arms around the still-stunned Greg.

AIDEN (cont'd)

Where were you? I called you something like fifty times, but your phone never picked up, and-

GREG

(dazed)

I was finding out who my real father was.

A beat. Aiden and Barbara swap surprised glances.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

From who?

GREG

That doesn't matter. Where's...

He trails off, spotting Sofia and Skye and hurrying over to them, leaving a puzzled Aiden and Barbara behind.

SOFIA

Greg!

He throws his arms around her and Skye, before noticing Braeden at last.

BRAEDEN

Er... there's no need to hug me too, mate.

(offers hand)

Braeden Donovan.

Greg blinks, then slowly extends his hand. Braeden shakes it enthusiastically.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

So... you're their Watcher, right?

SOFIA

He's our Greg.

Sofia squeezes him, closing her eyes, and as Greg takes another look around as we move over to a black van, armour plated like a security vehicle, and into which the captive rogue Slayers are being led.

Ellen stands nearby, still dressed in full combat gear - camouflage fatigues and body armour - as RONNIE, a weather-beaten Council agent, steps over and SLAMS the van's doors shut.

ELLEN

Don't take any chances with these girls. Those are three live wires you've got in your custody there.

RONNIE

We're aware of the risks. Dana Wells managed to escape our custody once before, so we've shot the three of them up with enough sedative to knock out every wildebeest in the Serengeti.

Ellen nods, letting Ronnie head back for the front of the van. He opens the driver's side door and climbs inside.

(CONTINUED)

Unseen by the others, Ronnie glances in his rear view mirror, then down at the footwell next to him - and the body of the real Ronnie is stuffed awkwardly out of view!

Ronnie grins as he starts the van - and as he pulls away from the Academy, his features start to morph back into those of Hamish!

Ellen Watches the van go, unaware of the switch of drivers, before walking over to the Initiative unit's commander, a gruff, silver-haired man named COLONEL HASTILOW.

ELLEN

I think that's the last of them, sir, but I'd still like to take another sweep around-

HASTILOW

(abrupt)

Our work here is done, Agent Marklew. I'm pulling our men out.

Hastilow turns and gives his orders to the men behind him, who nod and scurry away. Ellen looks a little surprised by Hastilow's bluntness as he turns back to her.

ELLEN

Colonel, I'm not sure that-

HASTILOW

To be frank, Agent, I couldn't give a rat's ass what you're 'sure' about.

ELLEN

Sir, I'm just trying to do my job!

HASTILOW

You work for us. Not them. Lately, it seems like you've started to forget that. Your first loyalty is to the Initiative, not this institution, and if you march into my base again, pulling rank and drawing men away from vital operations in Europe just to fight somebody else's battle, then you are going to find your position in our organisation to be on very shaky ground. Is that clear?

Ellen stares at him for a beat, but manages to push her anger down. She salutes smartly.

ELLEN

Crystal. Sir.

(CONTINUED)

HASTILOW

Where's Corporal Dunstall?

ELLEN

He, uh, rose with one of the injured Slayers to the hospital, sir. I thought it was best to provide an escort in case the people behind today's attacks tried again.

HASTILOW

And let me guess, one of those wounded Slayers just happens to be his girlfriend?

Ellen doesn't have an answer as Hastilow gets in her face.

HASTILOW (cont'd)

You crossed a line with your actions today, Ellen. I will not tolerate any hint that you'd put this place above the responsibility you have to me, your squad and the rest of the Initiative.

ELLEN

Sir, I can assure you, I-

HASTILOW

You're dismissed.

Hastilow turns and marches away. Ellen is left with a sour look on her face as Jaz walks over.

JAZ

What was that all about?

ELLEN

(sighs)

I think I just got told off.

JAZ

Anything serious?

Ellen hesitates, then turns and heads back towards the Academy, as we crane up and take in the scene outside the front entrance and slowly DISSOLVE TO:

Barbara pushes back into her office - and it's been trashed. She SIGHS, starting to scoop papers up from the floor when there's a KNOCK at the door. She turns to see Greg, waving him inside.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

Have a seat, if you can find one.

Greg rights a chair buried beneath a stack of books and places it down, sitting opposite her.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Are you all caught up on what happened now?

GREG

(nods)

I think so. I've spoken to everyone, checked who's still standing, made the rounds.

BARBARA

Did you see the new arrival?

GREG

The Australian boy? Yes, I heard he was... well, actually, I heard a lot of things.

BARBARA

According to his Watcher, he's a Slayer.

GREG

How is that possible?

BARBARA

I'm still trying to find out myself. Bryce says he'll explain everything when things here have settled down a little, but for now... it appears we have something of an anomaly on our hands.

GREG

I'm just glad he arrived when he did.

Barbara nods, and the two fall silent for a moment.

GREG (cont'd)

I suppose you want to know what I found out.

BARBARA

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't curious. As you can see, I could use a distraction right now.

Greg leans back, rubbing his chin. Barbara waits expectantly. He opens his mouth - and her phone starts to RING.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

I can wait.

She lifts the phone - and replaces the handset.

BARBARA

They'll call back.

Greg laughs, and Barbara waits again. Greg seems to have something heavy on his mind.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Greg? Would you like to-

GREG

I thought it was Ethan Rayne.

BARBARA

(beat; surprised)

Oh! I... see.

GREG

So that's who I went to see.

BARBARA

(alarmed)

You went to meet one of the most dangerous rogue magicians in the world? Alone?

GREG

I asked him if he was my father - and he said no.

BARBARA

Greg! That was a dangerous thing to do. Dangerous and irresponsible. What if he'd tried anything? He could have held you captive, used you to-

GREG

No, he wouldn't. He wanted to see the look on my face when he told me who my real dad was.

(beat)

Rupert Giles.

Barbara is stunned. Greg lowers his head and then stands, turning and heading for the door.

BARBARA

Greg, wait! Stop!

He pauses in the doorway.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA (cont'd)

Are you... are you sure?

GREG

I'm fairly sure - but I need to be absolutely sure. Like you said, Ethan's not to be trusted.

(beat)

I need to take some more time away. I need to find out why nobody ever told me about this, and I need to just...

(deep breath)

I need to find out who I am.

BARBARA

Ordinarily, I'd say take all the time you need, but... we need you right now, Greg.

GREG

I'm sorry... I'm sorry, but I just can't. Please, Barbara. I have to do this, and if you don't approve it, then... I'll just have to tender my resignation and go anyway.

He turns and leaves the office as Barbara flounders for something to say, and we cut to:

Sofia pushes open the door to one of the dorms - and grimaces at the mess it's in.

SOFIA

And here we appear to have Heidi versus Dana, round seven.

BRAEDEN

Hmm. Looks less enthusiastic than the last few.

SOFIA

Maybe they were tired?

They share a smile as Sofia leads him towards one of the beds, picking one that escaped the earlier melee.

SOFIA (cont'd)

This'll do for you for now, at least until we get the rooms tidied up and everybody's finished fighting over who gets what.



Braeden has two large bags over each shoulder, dumping them at the foot of the bed and sitting on the end.

BRAEDEN

This'll be fine. Thank you, Sofia.  
You're the only person so far who  
hasn't treated me like some kind of  
alien!

SOFIA

You saved my life. I think that  
qualifies you for light  
conversation and the occasional  
shared lunch break.

Another smile. Sofia heads back for the door as Braeden opens his first bag.

SOFIA (cont'd)

I'll be a few doors down if you  
need me, alright?

BRAEDEN

Okay. And thanks again.

SOFIA

No problem.

She closes the door and leaves him to unpack. Braeden lifts his head and waits for her footsteps to fade, then reaches for his second backpack.

Laying it on the bed, he opens it, removes a few top layers of rumpled up clothes and draws out a long, thin leather sheath.

He lays that down flat, unfastening the straps one at a time and peeling back the flaps of the sheath.

He steps back, staring down at the object below - off screen and out of view - and starts to grin.

It's a SCYTHER. Similar in design to Sofia's, but black where hers is red and with several extra spikes and edges.

And the Scythe is GLOWING, pulsing with energy - like Sofia's used to.

Braeden smiles for another moment, then hears someone coming. He quickly wraps the Scythe back up, and as we look up at him and the sheath's leather flaps fold over the camera, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF SHOW**